

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend claims 18 and 22, and add new claim 23.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) An apparatus comprising:

a grass mower having at least one cutting unit;

a grass catcher positioned adjacent the cutting unit, the grass catcher being a one-piece molded box-like structure having a pair of side panels, an upper panel and a lower panel, and an opening between the upper panel and lower panel facing the cutting unit, and at least one retaining structure integrally molded into the lower panel adjacent the opening; and

a reinforcing rod inserted through the at least one retaining structure and extending laterally across the lower panel and firmly gripped by the at least one retaining structure which acts as the primary restraint against movement of the reinforcing rod.

2. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the reinforcing rod is generally cylindrical in shape.

3. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising at least three retaining structures integrally molded into the lower panel adjacent the opening.

4. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the retaining structure is a channel.

5. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the retaining structure is a passage.

6. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the retaining structure is an offset structure.

7. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least some of the reinforcing rod is at least partially exposed facing upwardly.

8. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the reinforcing rod is metal.
9. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising at least one access hole in a side panel through which the reinforcing rod is inserted.
10. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the grass mower is a reel-type mower.
11. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the internal dimensions of the at least one retaining structure are not larger than the outer cross sectional dimension of the reinforcing rod.
12. (Withdrawn) An apparatus comprising:
 - a one-piece box-shaped molded plastic grass catcher having a rear-facing opening and a lower panel with an elevated lip at the opening;
 - a reinforcing rod extending laterally across at least a portion of the lower panel near the elevated lip; and
 - at least one plastic retaining structure integrally molded into the box-shaped molded plastic grass catcher through which the reinforcing rod may be press fitted; the plastic retaining structure acting as the primary restraint against movement of the reinforcing rod.
13. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising a pair of opposing side panels on each side of the one-piece box-shaped plastic grass catcher, and an access hole through at least one of the opposing side panels through which the reinforcing rod may be inserted.
14. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the reinforcing rod is a cylindrical metal rod.
15. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the at least one plastic retaining structure is an offset structure.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the reinforcing rod has a length less than the span between the pair of opposing side panels.

18. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a reinforced one-piece molded plastic grass catcher for a reel-type mower having a ground contacting roller, the grass catcher having an opening with a lower lip and a lower panel extending over the roller, a reinforcing rod extending laterally across at least a portion of the lower lip, and a plurality of retaining structures integrally molded into the lower lip being the only structures gripping the reinforcing rod in place.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the reinforced grass catcher further comprises a plastic box-like structure having walls with substantially uniform thickness, each of the integral retaining structures having substantially the same thickness as the walls.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 18 further comprising a lower wall and wherein the lower lip is in a horizontal plane above at least some portions of the lower wall.

22. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the plurality of integral retaining structures have an internal dimension, and the reinforcing rod has an outer cross sectional dimension no smaller than the internal dimension of the integral retaining structures.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the lower panel has a contoured bottom surface portion dimensioned to fit over the roller without interfering with roller movement.